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## RECENT LEGAL LITERATURE

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AN OUTLINE OF THE FRENCH LAW OF EVIDENCE. By Oliver E. Bodington, B.A. (Lond.), of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law. London: Stevens and Sons, Limited, 1904. pp. viii, 199.

The author's preface informs us that he was led to write the book as the result of his experience in conducting international litigation. The wide variance between the methods of proving facts under the French and English systems often resulted in serious difficulty, because evidence taken outside of France, and according to rules of the English law, was not always admissible in the courts of France. The book is written to afford a handy manual setting forth the general principles of the French law of evidence for the guidance of foreigners interested in litigation in the courts of France, and the author seems well to have accomplished his object.

Added interest is given the book because of its being a comparative study of the French and Anglo-Saxon systems. It is written in English and is therefore one of the quite rare books on any branch of modern foreign law available to English-speaking students in their own tongue.

Translations of the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, Code of Civil Procedure, and Code of Criminal Procedure, so far as they bear upon the subject of evidence, are found as an appendix.

V. H. LANE.

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A SUMMARY OF THE LAW OF PRIVATE CORPORATIONS. By Leslie J. Tompkins, Professor of Law, New York University. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Company, 1904. pp. xxxi, 263.

CASES ON CORPORATIONS, prepared for use of students in the University Law School, 2nd Edition. By Leslie J. Tompkins. New York, 1903. pp. 300.

The design of Professor Tompkins in preparing these works has undoubtedly been to meet the demand for a text and collection of cases of such size as could be used satisfactorily in law schools which can give from twenty-four to thirty-six hours of class work to the study of corporations, and also perhaps to furnish a work from which the student, studying alone, could obtain and master the general principles of corporation law, without the burden of going through the distracting and conflicting details necessarily given in the larger works. These two small books certainly will admirably accomplish these two purposes. As he says in the preface to the first: "The idea in mind has been to state in a systematic way the rules of law on the subject, and to state them in as few words as possible. In doing this the language of the decisions, and in a few instances, the language of the text writers, has been used, the writer finding it unnecessary, and in many cases impossible, to state the rule more concisely or accurately." In doing this the author has used excellent judgment and great care, for it is not the extensive quotations of tiresome decisions of the padded text-book that are given, but instead the most concise and vigorous statements of the best judges taken from the leading cases, are given in an orderly arrangement.